



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

Charles Williams, Associate Director II
6 Harrington Road
Cranston, RI 02920-3080

TEL: (401) 462-0759
FAX: (401) 462-0088

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Dear Provider:

As you know, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently promulgated new criteria for services delivered under the Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver Program (HCBS). The criteria, detailed in §441.301 of Title 42, Part 441, Subpart G of the Federal Code of Regulations related to Home- and Community-Based Services, promote regular community integration through the preservation and promotion of client choice and access to community-based activities.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities is currently working with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to develop a state-wide transition plan that will detail actions required to achieve full compliance with HCBS standards by March 2019. The HCBS provider and consumer surveys that you and your clients recently completed provide critical contributions to this effort.

Through the HCBS surveys, we seek to assess relative levels of compliance toward HCBS standards across the State. Informed by survey data, we will develop targeted strategies to support provider agencies in moving toward full compliance over the next three years. Over the coming weeks, we will work to better understand the data collected through HCBS surveys by:

- Comparing provider and consumer survey responses to identify discrepancies;
- Collecting and reviewing documentation of agency policies and practices that demonstrate compliance toward HCBS standards;
- Conducting on-site visits, as needed.

To ensure that your agency is reviewed sufficiently through this process, please submit the documentation requested on the attached checklist on or before July 15, 2016. Submissions should be emailed to Christine Botts – Christine.botts@bhddh.ri.gov.

An HCBS activities timeline is attached for your reference. The Division anticipates issuing agency-specific findings from the abovementioned review to each agency by August 15, 2016. Please contact Christine Botts with questions.

Thank you, as always, for your cooperation,

Charles E. Williams
Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities